

Harewood C of E Primary School

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“Education for Life In All Its Fullness”

Return to Full Opening - March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to thank all the families at Harewood for the fabulous home learning that has been going on and the time that has been spent supporting this at home since January. All this support will have greatly aided the progress your children have made during this time and lessened any loss due to us not being able to have school fully open. The school is grateful for all your help, support and patience during this lockdown. We really hope that this will be the last lockdown we have to work through.

From Monday 8th March school will be able to welcome all children back to full time learning, which is fabulous and enables school to get back to what we are setup to do. The nature of children and families means that everyone will have had very different experiences during this lockdown and as a result there may be some issues with settling back into routines. We will work with individuals and families to support their needs and the process of returning to full time school. Please speak to your child's class teacher in the first instance if you feel they need to be aware of additional needs.

We have worked with updated Government Guidance and Leeds City Council to ensure our COVID risk assessments are up to date and that our school site is as COVID secure as possible whilst still being able to deliver a wide and balanced curriculum. The full risk assessment document and other guidance is available on the school website.

To protect our community, school will be returning to the routines and processes of the second part of the Autumn term. A full 'Return to School Summary' document is attached with this letter but I have listed the main points below.

- There will be a flexible start to the day 8.35am to 8.55am to reduce the possibility of both children and adults having to congregate at the school gates.
- Classes will be working in segregated bubbles.
- Staff movement will be kept to a minimum.
- Regular hand washing/sanitizing will be part of class routine.
- The children can be collected from school between 3.05pm and 3.20pm again to reduce the chances of adults having to congregate at the end of the day.
- Before and After School Club will be running as normal. Please book this in the usual way.
- Regular staff testing of COVID is in place.
- There is no requirement for primary age children to wear a face covering at school but we ask that parents wear face coverings at the start and end of the day.



COVID self-testing for families of school age pupils.

From mid-January all staff in school have been part of a system of regular self-testing for COVID using home testing kits. This system will enable the quick identification of any possible cases amongst staff. Whilst there are no current plans to test primary age children it is now possible for families of school age pupils to access similar testing. Details of this scheme and how to access the tests can be found on the Government website at (www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff).

Self-test kits and tests can be obtained from the following sources:

- Your employer
- Collecting kits from local distributions points (<https://find-covid-19-rapid-test-sites.maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/findatestcenter.html>)
- Order kits online (<https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>)
- Taking a test at a rapid test lateral flow test site

I would like to strongly recommend that families take the opportunity to access this regular testing for their own peace of mind but also to help maintain the safety of the rest of the school community.

Yours sincerely

Mr A Ratcliffe

